

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5657

To promote preventive health care for Americans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 21, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To promote preventive health care for Americans.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Preventive Medicine
5 for a Healthier America Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) Improving the health of the population and
9 reducing medical costs requires implementation of
10 preventive methods.

1 (2) Organizations throughout the United States
2 have expressed the need for an increase of public
3 health professionals.

4 (3) There are only approximately 6,000 physi-
5 cians board certified in preventive medicine.

6 (4) Many health care costs are spent on chronic
7 conditions that could be avoided by implementing
8 preventive methods.

9 (5) The number of preventive medicine resi-
10 dency programs and individuals pursuing preventive
11 medicine has significantly decreased in recent years.

12 (6) Preventive medicine physicians are uniquely
13 trained to serve patients and communities.

14 (7) A strong public health system requires a
15 strong preventive medicine workforce.

16 **SEC. 3. LOAN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR PREVENTIVE**
17 **MEDICINE PHYSICIANS.**

18 (a) PAYMENTS.—On behalf of any eligible preventive
19 medicine physician, the Secretary of Health and Human
20 Services may pay up to \$20,000 of the medical education
21 loans incurred by the physician.

22 (b) APPLICATION.—To request a payment under this
23 section, an eligible preventive medicine physician shall
24 submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in

1 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
2 retary may require.

3 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) The term “eligible preventive medicine phy-
5 sician” means a practicing physician who receives
6 board certification in preventive medicine during the
7 period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

8 (2) The term “medical education loan” means
9 the outstanding principal of and interest on a loan
10 incurred for the cost of attendance (including tui-
11 tion, other reasonable educational expenses, and rea-
12 sonable living costs) at a school of medicine.

13 (3) The term “school of medicine” has the
14 meaning given to that term in section 799B of the
15 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p).

16 (4) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
17 of Health and Human Services.

18 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
19 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated
20 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
21 2007 through 2011.

22 **SEC. 4. WELLNESS PROGRAM CREDIT.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of sub-
24 chapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of

1 1986 (relating to business related credits) is amended by
 2 inserting after section 45M the following new section:

3 **“SEC. 45N. WELLNESS PROGRAM CREDIT.**

4 “(a) GENERAL RULE.—For purposes of section 38,
 5 the wellness program credit determined under this section
 6 for any taxable year is an amount equal to \$200 per quali-
 7 fied employee employed by the eligible employer during the
 8 taxable year.

9 “(b) DOLLAR LIMITATION.—The amount of the cred-
 10 it determined under this section for any taxable year shall
 11 not exceed 25 percent of the eligible employer’s regular
 12 tax liability (as defined in section 26(b)).

13 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

14 “(1) ELIGIBLE EMPLOYER.—With respect to a
 15 taxable year, the term ‘eligible employer’ means an
 16 employer who—

17 “(A) develops and implements a qualified
 18 wellness program, and

19 “(B) keeps accurate records of the preven-
 20 tive health screenings and other programs in
 21 which the eligible employer’s employees have
 22 participated during the taxable year.

23 “(2) QUALIFIED WELLNESS PROGRAM.—With
 24 respect to an eligible employer, the term ‘qualified
 25 wellness program’ means a program—

1 “(A) that is developed and implemented by
2 the eligible employer, in consultation with a
3 physician (as defined in section 213(d)) who is
4 board certified in preventive medicine,

5 “(B) that provides at least 2 preventive
6 health screenings for the benefit of the eligible
7 employer’s employees,

8 “(C) that provides counseling, seminars,
9 self-help materials, and other resources related
10 to at least 3 of the following:

11 “(i) smoking,

12 “(ii) obesity,

13 “(iii) stress management,

14 “(iv) physical fitness,

15 “(v) nutrition,

16 “(vi) substance abuse,

17 “(vii) depression,

18 “(viii) mental health,

19 “(ix) heart disease, and

20 “(x) maternal and infant health, and

21 “(D) whose qualified participants include
22 not less than 50 percent of the eligible employ-
23 er’s full-time employees.

1 “(3) QUALIFIED EMPLOYEE.—With respect to
2 an eligible employer, the term ‘qualified employee’
3 means an individual who is—

4 “(A) a full-time employee of the eligible
5 employer, and

6 “(B) a qualified participant in the eligible
7 employer’s qualified wellness program.

8 “(4) QUALIFIED PARTICIPANT.—With respect
9 to a taxable year, the term ‘qualified participant’
10 means an individual who participates in at least 2 of
11 the preventive health screenings or other programs
12 offered through a qualified wellness program during
13 the taxable year, as determined by the eligible em-
14 ployer who has developed and implemented such
15 qualified wellness program.

16 “(d) TERMINATION.—This section shall not apply in
17 taxable years beginning after December 31, 2011.”.

18 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

19 (1) Section 38(b) of such Code is amended by
20 striking “and” at the end of paragraph (29), by
21 striking the period at the end of paragraph (30) and
22 inserting “, and”, and by adding at the end the fol-
23 lowing new paragraph:

24 “(31) the wellness program credit determined
25 under section 45N(a).”.

1 (2) The table of sections for subpart D of part
2 IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code is
3 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
4 tion 45M the following new item:

“Sec. 45N. Wellness program credit.”.

5 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
6 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
7 December 31, 2006.

8 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
10 Human Services, acting through the Director of the Agen-
11 cy for Healthcare Research and Quality, shall carry out
12 a national education campaign to encourage the use of
13 preventive health screenings by individuals, employers,
14 physicians, hospitals, State and local health departments,
15 community health centers, industrial sites, occupational
16 health centers, academic centers, private practices, the
17 military, and Federal departments and agencies.

18 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
19 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated
20 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
21 2007 through 2011.

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